RULES

FOR THE

EDUCATION

OF

POOR CHILDREN

IN THE

PROTESTANT RELIGION,

AND

USEFUL LEARNING;

INSTITUTED

AT THE

COUNTESS of HUNTINGDON's *CHAPEL,*

BATH, 1784.

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WHEREAS it has been long a matter of grief to every ſerious and enlightened perſon, to behold the deplorable ignorance of the riſing generation, eſpecially the poorer ſort, for want of proper means of inſtruction; and ſeeing that one of the moſt effectual methods under God, to remove this great evil, is to put them in the way of becoming acquainted with the Doctrine of the everlaſting Goſpel, as well by private inſtruction in the great Truths of the Chriſtian Religion, as by cauſing them to be brought under the publick Miniſtration of the Word: And whereas many Parents are ſo poor as not to be able, and others ſo wicked or indifferent as not to be willing, to be at any expence for the education of their poor Children. From theſe and other conſiderations it appears very expedient that the moſt effectual ſteps, in humble dependance on the Divine Bleſſing, ſhould be taken to inſtil into the tender minds of ſuch Children thoſe principles deduced from the Word of God, which (under the influence of the Holy Spirit) may be the bleſſed means of ſubduing the workings of their corrupt nature, and preventing them from falling into the Sink of Profligacy, Debauchery, and Infidelity: and, of making them early acquainted with the way of ſalvation by the Blood and Righteouſneſs of Jeſus, and the neceſſity of Regeneration by the Holy Spirit. Whilſt theſe means are made a proper uſe of, and are adopted and purſued with a ſingle Eye to the Glory of God, we may humbly hope for the Lord's Bleſſing: and whilſt we are thus

uſing

uſing our humble efforts *to train up* thoſe poor *Children in the way they ſhould go*, we may expect a fulfilment of the promiſe, that, *when they are old, they ſhall not depart from it*.—If we are thus happily the Inſtruments in God's Hand, of their becoming uſeful Members of Society, of their being eſtabliſhed in the fundamental Principles of the proteſtant Religion, and above all of their *knowing thoſe holy Scriptures from their Childhood, which are able to make them wiſe unto ſalvation, through faith which is in Chriſt Jeſus:* our end will be effectually anſwered. And we hope the attempt we are now engaged in of eſtabliſhing a School, on the Principles above mentioned, for the inſtruction of the pooreſt Children, will meet with the Encouragement and Aſſiſtance of our own Congregation in particular, and of Chriſtians of every denomination in general; who have the real good of the riſing Generation at heart, and whoſe Contributions on this occaſion, according to their circumſtances, will be moſt gratefully accepted by the Promoters of this Charity in general.

BATH, MAY 10, 1784.

BATH, May 10, 1784.

AT a Meeting held this Day at the Veſtry-Room belonging to the Counteſs of HUNTINGDON's Chapel, by her Ladyſhip and Committee (appointed for the management of the temporal affairs belonging to the ſame) the following Reſolutions were propoſed and unanimouſly agreed to, viz.

I.

THAT a Subſcription be immediately opened for the Education of poor Children in the Proteſtant Religion, at the Counteſs of *Huntingdon's* Chapel.

II.

That the Maſter be a perſon that has a Miniſterial Gift, and qualified to aſſiſt in reading Prayers: And in caſe of indiſpoſition or abſence of a Rotation Miniſter, to do the whole ſervice, by which means we ſhall never be diſappointed of the Ordinances.

III.

That the Miſtreſs of the ſaid School be a perſon properly qualified for the Education of the Girls.

IV.

That the Maſter and Miſtreſs be choſen and appointed by her Ladyſhip and Committee of the ſaid Chapel for the time being, who ſhall hereby become reſponſible for the Qualifications of the ſaid Maſter and Miſtreſs, to the reſt of the Subſcribers.

V.

That the Committee meet at the Veſtry Room of the Chapel the firſt Monday in every Month, from ſix to eight in the evening,

to

to tranſact the Buſineſs of the ſaid School, three Members to conſtitute a Board.

VI.

That the Children be well grounded in the principles of the Chriſtian Religion in general, and the Doctrine of the Reformation in particular: and to this end, that they be not only catechiſed frequently in the School by the Teachers, but particularly in the Chapel, when the rotation Miniſter and Committee ſee fit.

VII.

That the Children be required to attend Divine Service at the Chapel every Lord's Day, morning and evening, and to meet in the School before Service, to be conducted by the Maſter and Miſtreſs to the ſaid Chapel in proper time.

VIII.

That the Boys are to be taught reading, writing and arithmetic: and the Girls to read, ſew, mark and knit; and the ſix eldeſt Girls in rotation to be inſtructed in writing for one Year.

IX.

That no Children are to be admitted under the age of eight years, nor above the age of ten, and are to be educated for four years.

X.

That if any Child behaves refractory or diſorderly, ſuch Child after proper admonition continuing ſuch conduct to be diſmiſſed from the School; and the Subſcriber that recommended that Child, to be informed of the diſmiſſion, and the cauſe of it, and to have the privilege of nominating another Child, to continue to

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the expiration of the term the Child ſo diſmiſſed would have been entitled to, or longer if the Governers ſee fit.

XI.

That every Child on leaving the School at the proper time, be permitted to have the Bible and any other Books he or ſhe had in uſe, whilſt at ſchool.

XII.

That in caſe of any complaint againſt the Teachers, or Children, by any five of the Subſcribers attending the monthly Meeting of the Committee, ſuch complaint will be heard, and redreſſed, if needs be, by her Ladyſhip and the Committee of the Chapel aforeſaid.

XIII.

That every Subſcriber be permitted to inſpect the School and Children at pleaſure.

XIV.

That the Children are required to be at the School from eight o'clock till twelve in the morning, and from two o'clock till five in the evening from *Lady Day* to *Michaelmas;* and from eight o'clock till eleven in the morning, and from one to four in the afternoon, from *Michaelmas* to *Lady Day*.

XV.

That every Subſcriber of one Guinea a year may nominate one Child in rotation, the firſt Subſcriber to begin ſuch a nomination, and ſo on in order, till the number of Children be compleated; and the next nomination to take place in courſe, where the former ended: and that any two yearly Subſcribers of half a Guinea each, may join in nominating a Child in rotation, in like manner as one

Subſcriber

Subſcriber of a Guinea; the Subſcribers of half a Guinea in conjunction immediately to ſucceed the Subſcribers of a Guinea, in rotation alſo as they reſpectively become Subſcribers; every ſuch Subſcriber of half a Guinea as it comes to his or her turn in priority of ſubſcription, to propoſe any other Subſcriber of a like ſum to join in the nomination, provided ſuch other Subſcriber has not already joined in a nomination.

XVI.

That the Subſcribers be deſired to pay their reſpective Subſcriptions Quarterly at the Veſtry Room.

XVII.

That the Treaſurer appointed for this purpoſe be Mr. *James Beale*.

XVIII.

That the Treaſurer pay the Maſter and Miſtreſs their reſpective Salaries quarterly, viz. at *Michaelmas*, *Chriſtmas*, *Lady Day*, and *Midſummer*.

XIX.

That the Maſter be allowed £40. a year; and the Miſtreſs £20. a year for their reſpective Salaries.

XX.

That the Maſter be required to teach as many Boys, and the Miſtreſs as many Girls for their reſpective Salaries as her Ladyſhip and the Committee think fit.

XXI.

That the Maſter and Miſtreſs begin and end the day with Prayer, and reading a chapter out of the Bible. XXII. That

XXII.

That a Dwelling Houſe, School Room and Fire for the School; Books, Paper, Pens and Ink, be provided out of the Subſcription, at the diſcretion of her Ladyſhip and Committee aforeſaid.

XXIII.

That a general Meeting of the Subſcribers be held annually on the firſt Monday after *Midſummer Day*, at the School Houſe, when the Committee are to lay before them the Account of Receipts and Payments, and the then State of the ſaid School.

XXIV.

That any Donations of Bibles and Teſtaments, for the uſe of the Children will be thankfully accepted.